

OFFICE MANAGEMENT OF OCULAR DISEASES. William F. Hughes, Jr., M.D., Professor and Head of Department of Ophthalmology, University of Illinois College of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1953. 451 pages, \$9.00.

In this book the author attempts to present practical details of diagnosis and treatment of a specific patient. The chapters are under the following headings: vision; refraction; lids; lacrimal apparatus; orbit; disorders of ocular motility; conjunctiva; cornea; sclera; glaucoma; intraocular inflammation; lens and vitreous; conditions of the ocular fundus; neuro-ophthalmology; ocular injuries; radiation treatment; and ophthalmic formulary. The index is extensive and adequate.

The first 86 pages are devoted to optics and refraction and contain many valuable practical points. In the discussion of the various diseases the important differential diagnostic points are presented and the treatment outlined. The author recommends the specific treatment together with other therapeutic measures in the event that the usual treatment is not effective. This is an advantage over many books where a number of therapeutic measures are recommended but the choice of the specific agent is left to the reader.

The numerous tables of differential diagnosis are especially valuable. The formulary of some 20 pages is very helpful in that it contains all the necessary information in regard to the use of the various drugs employed in ophthalmology, so that the ophthalmologist can quickly refresh himself on the dosage, etc., of a seldom used but important therapeutic measure.

The chapter of radiation treatment is perhaps a little over-enthusiastic and one wonders if some of the statements made have "stood the test of time" as mentioned by the author.

The paper is good, the printing easily readable and the general format excellent. The line drawings are good, as are the charts. The reproduction of photographs of external diseases is generally fair, but some of the fundus photographs are not up to the standard of the rest of the book.

The book should be in a readily accessible place in every ophthalmologist's office as a rapid reference on the care and management of office patients. Because of the excellent formulary it is a "must" for the younger practitioner who has been brought up on the antibiotics and cortisone and who often is not familiar with the old "tried and true" methods that have stood the test of time, and which may be effective when the newer therapeutic measures fail.

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ESSENTIALS OF BODY MECHANICS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE—Fifth Edition. Joel E. Goldthwait, M.D., F.A.C.S., LL.D., Sc.D.; Lloyd T. Brown, M.D., F.A.C.S.; Loring T. Swaim, M.D., and John G. Kuhns, M.D., F.A.C.S., Sc.D. J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1952. 356 pages, 135 illustrations, \$6.00.

The Essentials of Body Mechanics in Health and Disease is now in its fifth edition. There is a great deal of value in this book, particularly for a medical man who is interested in the total problem of the patient as against the specific correction of an individually specific disease. Too often in the field of medicine we become interested in curing a specific entity with drugs and forget the physiological changes which have occurred and which will continue to present problems unless corrected.

Dr. Goldthwait has been a pioneer in the study of the relation of body mechanics to the general physiological well being of the human body. The present edition is a further combination of the extensive contributions he has made to the study of this subject.

There are many conclusions or assumptions made in the book which probably are not scientifically or positively cor-

rect and provable, but at least the recommendations made by the authors form a useful basis for control of the problem of body mechanics in relation to disease and maintenance of health. Perhaps the best contribution of the book is its extensive and detailed bibliography following each chapter.

The book must of its very nature have a limited appeal. It probably should be read carefully by more practicing physicians generally because the subject which it presents is all too frequently ignored by the average doctor.

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BASEDOW'S DISEASE. H. Sattler, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Leipsig, Germany. English translation by G. W. and J. F. Marchand. The Manifestations, Timing, Duration and Outcome of Basedow's Disease; Symptoms, Severity and Age Incidence; the Disease in Children, and Its Occurrence Among Animals. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1952. 605 pages, \$10.00.

This unique volume makes available for the first time in English an exhaustive reference work on the natural course of exophthalmic goiter, covering the years 1722 to 1909. It is a work of encyclopedic character, and because it antedates current methods of treatment, consists almost entirely of descriptions of the untreated disease and its course. It was compiled at a time when metabolism testing was still in the research stage in Magnus-Levy's laboratory. The diagnosis of thyroid dysfunction, therefore, was based purely on the observation of signs and symptoms. It is refreshing and inspirational to relearn the value of observation without the use of technical laboratory procedures. The section on symptomatology covers 340 pages and includes 100 pages on the ophthalmic complications alone; illustrative case summaries are interspersed with the text. The bibliography contains 3,210 references arranged according to the year of publication.

The reader of this volume cannot fail to be impressed with the intense interest, knowledge and industry of the author. It will be a valuable addition to the reference library of the endocrinologist, ophthalmologist, internist and those interested in the history of medicine.

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LUMBAR DISC LESIONS—Pathogenesis and Treatment of Low Back Pain and Sciatica. J. R. Armstrong, M.D., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., Orthopedic Surgeon to the Metropolitan Hospital and Lambeth Hospital, Visiting Orthopedic Surgeon to Manor House Hospital. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., London, distributed by Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1952. 228 pages, \$8.00.

Such is the bulk of knowledge in medicine in the present day that the textbook has almost become a thing of the past, and the monograph has taken its place. This book, although its title would indicate it is limited to a consideration of lumbar disc lesions, embraces a consideration of many other causes of the syndrome of low back pain and sciatica. It is obviously the work of an orthopedic surgeon. Without being too partisan in the controversy over whether the lumbar disc is in the field of the orthopedist or the neurosurgeon, one cannot but question the adequacy of the purely bone and joint approach to a problem which is certainly chiefly neurological in its manifestations. The author presents in great detail his theory of the pathogenesis of disc protrusion, and the manner in which symptoms result from stretching of nerve roots as well as direct interference with joint function. The latter part of the book deals with the technique of the operative approach in considerable detail, illustrated with some very fine color plates. Medical treatment is also described, with notable absence of consideration of traction. In all, the book is of considerable interest to the specialist, but would probably not be too helpful to the general physician.